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24 OCT 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Assistant Director, OCR

SUBJECT:

Services of the Special Register

REFERENCE:

Your memorandum of 9 October 1958

- i. This Office has considered the work by the Special Register to be of the greatest assistance in providing immediate service on receivery of COMINT information. It is with some surprise I learn that such a large and old backlog exists, and I can understand the kind of problem this raises. In response to your observation about the preciped material that remains unindexed, as far as this Office is concerned, the only category that we request be indexed is Section I on the Russian area of the attachment (approximately 14,000 reports).
- 2. In our opinion the Special Register performs two distinct functions -- first the library function for special material, i.e. indexing, storing, listing and recovering. Because of the capabilities of the personnel and machines in the Special Register and the security classification of the materials involved, this Office has come to rely on the Special Register for a second function quite distinct from that of the library services -- that of providing all-source information arranged in usable fashion to allow intelligence to be derived on certain high priority subjects.

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3. Because of the lack of directly supporting information in such fields as Military Economics, Guided Missiles, Aircraft Production, and some aspects of Transportation, this Office has been forced to rely heavily on indirect information. The Special Register has been extremly helpful in arranging and re-arranging the large masses of these indirect data.

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- 4. Your reference to requests by this Office for innovations in machine analysis touches upon an important potential contribution which we believe OCR can and, I am sure, wants to provide. To be of maximum utility for the production of intelligence, any machine analysis system that may be set up within the DD/I area should be on an all-source basis and centrally located. Within the present OCR structure, the Special Register is, I think, the only facility that meets these criteria.
- type equipment are the negotiations by the this Office in the use of computer type equipment are the negotiations by the this Office with NSA. These talks relate to the problems of programming the information maintained by the into the 705 computer to allow for information recovery, comparisons and other sub-analytic processes to be performed as required.
 - an ORR representative (probably from to participate on your Automation Staff. It would appear that such an assignment would facilitate the development of machine techniques responsive to the manipulation of intelligence data of concern to ORR.

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OTTO E. GUTHE
Assistant Director
Research and Reports

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27 October 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, ORR

SUBJECT

: Services of the Special Register

REFERENCE

: Your memorandum, same subject, of 24 October 1958

1. The indexing by the Special Register of all pre-1954 Russian area materials (c. 14,000 reports), as requested in paragraph 1 of the referenced memorandum, would, of course, infringe upon the present service program of the Register and would limit SR's ability to undertake new projects of the sort you desire. As I indicated in my telephone conversation with you of this date, there is considerable question in my mind that the indexing of all these materials represents the best allocation of SR capabilities. Your willingness to negotiate this matter through the saked Chief, SR, to pursue this subject with

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- 2. I heartily welcome your suggestion (paragraph 6, referenced memorandum) to detail an ORR representative to participate in the activities of OCR's Automation Development Group. We are ready to accept such a detail immediately. Please inform us of the name of the individual you select.
- 3. I am pleased to note your interest in the application of advanced data processing machines to some of the problem areas of ORR research. The several Registers of this Office are well aware of the growing interests in this field on the part of OCR consumers and, as you know, I have a strong personal interest in such equipment through my association with the mechanical translation effort. I am at the present moment seeking to establish a firm justification for acquisition by OCR of computer-type equipment. Further clarification of the nature and scope of those data requirements your Office is generating which might best be handled with advanced electronic equipment would be extremely timely and helpful.

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Acting Assistant Director Central Reference

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, ORR

SUBJECT:

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NSA

NSA

Services of the Special Register

1. The Special Register reports to me an increase in demand by your Office for compilations and tabulations in various fields and for innovations in machine analyses. Notable among the interests that have been expressed are those from your Guided Missiles Branch and your Aircraft Branch for projects to provide rapid collation of extensive data I certainly agree that these areas of intelligence research can benefit coverage. With the new projects which we accept from your people goes the problem of manpower allocation in the Register. As new projects are received we are forced to re-examine our priorities and suggest the discontinuance or modification of present projects. The

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paragraph below makes such a suggestion.

The Special Register has a backlog of some 100,000 pre-1954

items not indexed. This backlog contains considerable Russian material as well as a wide variety of other series. (See attachment.) For collateral materials, this Office considers documents older than 5 years of nominal value, and space and other considerations have dictated here their retirement to the Records Center. I propose to deal similarly with the pre-1954 Effective 1 November 1958 only emergency service on these materials will be

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NSA

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provided by the Special Register, unless you can show substantial requirement for this older material.

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Acting Assistant Director Central Reference

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